

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PANAMA 02616 171855Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
SAB-02 /081 W
-----048394 171857Z /53

P R 171756Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6596
INFO PANCANAL
USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 2616

DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN
USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO
PANCANAL FOR IO

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PN
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

FOLG SENT ACTION PRIORITY USINFO WASHDC INFO SECSTATE WASHDC
171755Z APR 78 FROM USIS/PANAMA RPTD YOUR ACTION/INFO

QUOTE
UNCLAS

EO 11652: N/A

MEDIA REACTION

1. PANAMA CITY.--PANAMANIAN MEDIA OVER WEEKEND AND APRIL 17 TOOK
MODERATE, WAIT-AND-SEE TONE, WITH SIGNIFICANT EASING OF
STRIDENT CALLS FOR REJECTION OF ANY TREATY CONTAINING DECONCINI
RESERVATION. COMMENTATORS ALSO EXPRESSED FAITH IN PANAMANIAN
STUDENT BODY'S ABILITY TO REMAIN CALM DESPITE OPENING OF
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PANAMA 02616 171855Z

SCHOOL APRIL 17.

2. WIRE SERVICE STORIES FRONT-PAGED ALL PAPERS WEEKEND AND
APRIL 17 CONCERN APRIL 18 TREATY VOTE, WITH HEADLINES WAVERING
BETWEEN PREDICTIONS OF CLOSE VOTE, AND OTHERS, QUOTING SEN.
BAKER, PREDICTING RATIFICATION.

3. CRITICISM OF TREATIES CONTINUES IN APRIL 15 AND 17 CRITICAL COLUMN BY U. OF PANAMA LAW SCHOOL PROFESSOR CAMILO PEREZ, WHO RECOMMENDS PANAMA RETURN TREATIES WITH COUNTER-AMENDMENTS, "WHICH WILL NOT ADMIT YANKEE INTERVENTION IN PANAMA UNDER ANY PRETEXT, NOR THEIR MILITARY PRESENCE AFTER THE YEAR 2000...THIS PRECEDENT ALLOWING THE RETURN OF THE TREATIES TO THE U.S. WITH OUR AMENDMENTS AND RESERVATIONS, IS FOUND IN THE RATIFICATION OF THE THOMPSON-URRUTIA TREATY, SIGNED BY THE U.S. AND COLOMBIA." PEREZ ALSO INSISTS THE FAULT OF THE TREATIES' PROBLEMS IN THE SENATE DOES NOT LIE WITH SEN. DE CONCINI ALONE: "WE ARE SO TIRED OF READING EVERY DAY ABOUT...DECONCINI, THAT WE HAVE SERIOUSLY BEEN THINKING WHETHER IT MIGHT BE A STRATEGY TO DISTRACT FROM THE TRUE EPICENTER OF RESPONSIBILITY, HERE AS WELL AS IN THE U.S.... WE INSIST THAT IT IS NOT THE FAULT OF THE SENATOR FROM ARIZONA THAT THE TREATIES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED REJECTED."

4. MATUTINO DEVOTES APRIL 15 COLUMN TO DECONCINI, WITHOUT MENTIONING HIS NAME, AND CONCLUDING, "TOTAL OBLIVION TO HIS NAME. LET'S EACH DAY ERASE IT MORE FROM WHAT WE WRITE, WHAT WE SAY, WHAT WE THINK. BUT THIS FORGETFULNESS SHOULD NOT INCLUDE WHAT HE TRIED TO DO TO US, SUCCESSFULLY OR NOT. AND LET'S CONVERT THIS OFFENSE INTO A MORAL FORCE...TO CONTINUE OUR STRUGGLE UNTIL WE HAVE ACHIEVED THE DEFINITE TRIUMPH WHICH OUR CAUSE MERITS...AND WHICH HAS RECEIVED THE ENDORSEMENT OF ALL FREE MEN IN THE WORLD, OF WHOM THERE ARE MILLIONS IN THE U.S. INCLUDING IN THE U.S. SENATE, IN WHOSE MINDS THE ABSURD, IRESPONSIBLE AND UNJUST ATTITUDE OF UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PANAMA 02616 171855Z

THE DISTINGUISHED UNKNOWN FROM ARIZONA MAKES NOT THE SLIGHTEST IMPRESSION."

5. LEFTIST STUDENT GROUP CIRCULO CAMILO TORRES USES APRIL 17 MATUTINO AS FORUM FOR SECOND CALL FOR REJECTION OF TREATIES, THIS TIME ON BASIS OF SECOND LEADERSHIP AMENDMENT, GIVING U.S. WARSHIPS PRIORITY PASSAGE IN TIME OF EMERGENCY.

6. APRIL 17 MATUTINO EDIT PRAISES PANAMANIAN STUDENTS, WHO FROM BIRTH HAVE HEARD OF PANAMA'S STRUGGLE FOR SOVEREIGNTY AND WHO HAVE ALWAYS BEEN IN FOREFRONT OF THAT STRUGGLE. STUDENTS KNOW, HOWEVER, SAYS MATUTINO, "THAT IN THIS PRECISE MOMENT, THE STRATEGY CONSISTS OF NOT PLAYING INTO THE HANDS OF THOSE WHO DO NOT REPRESENT THE NATION, WHILE THE BEST TACTICS ARE BASED ON THE CONCEPTS OF DISCIPLINE AND CALM. FOR THIS REASON, THEIR EARS WILL NOT PICK UP THE WAVELENGTH THAT COULD INCITE THEM TO UNTHOUGHT-OUT ACTIONS. ...THEY KNOW THAT THE BEST SERVICE THEY CAN PAY THE NATION TODAY IS TO CONCENTRATE THEIR THOUGHTS ON THEIR STUDIES."

7. MATUTINO COLUMN MOYOLANDIA APRIL 17 EXPRESSES OPTIMISM ON SENATE VOTE: "IT IS ELEMENTAL TO CONCLUDE THAT IF PRES. CARTER

DID NOT HAVE THE TWO THIRDS NECESSARY, THE GOVERNMENT LEADERS
WOULD FIND A WAY, WHETHER BY POSTPONING THE VOTE TO ANOTHER DATE,
OR BY LENGTHENING THE DEBATE, SO THERE WOULD BE NOT VOTE."
MOYOLANDIA ALSO QUOTES SEN. CHURCH'S MARCH 20 PRO-PANAMA REMARKS,
AS EXAMPLE THAT "WITHIN THE MANY REPERCUSSIONS THAT DECONCINI'S
CONDUCT HAS HAD, WE PANAMANIAN HAVE BEEN ABLE TO NOTE THE
RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF MANY SENATORS AND THE EXPRESSIONS OF
FRIENDSHIP AND RESPECT OF SOME, WHO IN VALIANT FORM HAVE DEFENDED
THE PANAMANIAN POSITION."

8. NO SIGNIFICANT TV COMMENTARIES DURING WEEKEND. ITEM
UNQUOTE

JORDEN
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 PANAMA 02616 171855Z

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, TREATY RATIFICATION, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PANAMA02616
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780164-0517
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780449/aaaabpma.tel
Line Count: 136
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 015088ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2943833
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTIONS FOLG SENT ACTION PRIORITY USINFO WASHDC INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 171755Z APR 78 FROM USIS/PANAMA RPTD YOUR ACTION/I
TAGS: SOPN, PN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/015088ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014